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In a day or two politics will go into a back seat if not wholly adjourned.

Every county in Vermont gave Clement a majority. His victory was by no means sectional.

When it comes to "freedom of the seas," Great Britain will speak with some authority in the peace conference.

The allies are not such terrible monsters when they will turn right around and feed the hands that have been smiting them for more than four years.

Good news from South Burlington—Daniel O'Brien has been elected town representative again. The State House wouldn't be quite natural if deprived of the presence of Mr. O'Brien.

Protest from Austria that the signing of the armistice did not give the allies the right to use Austrian territory as a route to Germany probably was meant for the effect it might have on Germany and not on the allies.

The defeat of Senator James Hamilton Lewis of Illinois by Medill McCormick was one of the highlights of the election. Senator Lewis has so long been the iridescent glow of the Senate that the place will seem dark without him.

The voters of Berlin, N. H., decided not to change the name of their city despite the unpleasant association of ideas the name may bring up at the present time. Besides, they did not know but that Berlin, Germany, might undergo a regeneration which would make the name more acceptable.

Such a fantastic statement as that by Senator Weeks of Massachusetts, to the effect that it was possible that an armistice with Germany was declared three days before Senator Weeks made the statement early this week, probably does not need investigation. It seems hardly likely that news of world events of tremendous importance would be held up because of the effect the news would have on some little political squabbles in the United States.

Those reports of mutiny on German battleships at Kiel are the more credible at this time because German seamen have previously given indication of their dissatisfaction with the continued war. The German seamen are far less tractable than their brothers on land, perhaps because they have the better opportunity to get outside of Germany now and then to catch the drift of world thought. They are at least brought into touch with the men of other nations, which should give them a little broader horizon and which undoubtedly does teach them that German Kultur is not the only thing in the world.

The task of collecting the more important returns from the Vermont election was conducted by the Associated Press with a surprising degree of success. The figures were collected by a single newspaper in each county (the work having been assigned to The Times in Washington county) and transmitted to the Boston office of the Associated Press, where the compilation was finished. The county returns were gathered from correspondents in each town by means of the telephone and were sent to Boston by telegraph, several of the newspapers being connected with direct wire to the Boston office of the Associated Press. During the process of compiling the returns in Boston, the subscribers to the Associated Press were given frequent bulletins, after which the completed returns were sent over the wire. So smoothly did the whole operation work that by 11 o'clock of election night the complete governorship vote from the 247 cities and towns of Vermont was put on the wire. This has not been accomplished in Vermont during the past score of years; and, although the task was not nearly so complex as in a state of large voting strength, the Boston office of the Associated Press is to be congratulated on the building up of an effective machinery of collecting returns.

A DESPAIRING EFFORT.

Report has it that the Germans are feverishly throwing up breastworks on the boundary of Bavaria and Austria in expectation of a great allied drive at the southern part of Germany through Austrian territory; but such efforts would seem to be puny indeed. A great system of defenses cannot be built up in a day, or a week or a month. It is probable that the building of breastworks would have to start from nothing inasmuch as Germany had not seen fit to fortify the border between herself and Austria, having gone on the assumption that Austria would always be an ally and that, therefore, Austrian territory could never be used as a pathway into lower Germany. So the Germans would have to build from the beginning, not to strengthen positions already established. Whatever they could prepare in the comparatively short time at their disposal would not avail them much, for the great guns of the allies would soon grind them into powder much as the German guns

smashed the defenses of the formidable Belgian forts at the outset of the war; and the vast infantry forces at the disposal of Field Marshal Foch could overrun those ruins. The defenses which the Germans are reported to be building in Bavaria would be little more than retarding obstacles to the allied war machine.

THE NEED OF THE HOUR.

Competent authorities say that even were peace to be declared to-day it would be nearly two years before all our American forces could be withdrawn from Europe and other places where they have been sent by the United States government. The reason is that there are not enough ships to bring them back soon even though it were advisable to leave no part of the great force in order to make certain that the terms of the peace treaties are carried out. That comparative slowness of the return of the troops means that a small nation of men must be kept busy and contented during their stay in Europe and other sections of the globe and that they may come back sound in mind and in body.

To assist in the work of keeping the men busy and contented at a time when their military duties are somewhat relaxed and when they are longing for the sight of home and loved ones is the obligation which various organizations have taken upon themselves. For more than a year these organizations have been working separately although along similar lines, raising their funds in separate drives and conducting their work more or less independently. The needless waste of such a plan has come home to the leaders of those movements, and so it has been decided to consolidate the drives for contributions from the American people into one grand effort which shall run from Nov. 11 to Nov. 18. The organizations doing war work (exclusive of the Red Cross) have joined forces under the designation of the United War Work campaign and they ask the people of this nation to contribute approximately \$250,000,000, an amount which is necessary to carry on the great work which is being done for the soldiers and sailors in the United States service. How much those organizations have done for the soldiers and sailors we have learned from time to time through the appreciative letters which the boys have written back home. What it would mean to them to have those services cut off through the failure of the American people to furnish the necessary funds can easily be imagined. The boys would become discontented, feel deserted and would wander off in search of their own amusement and satisfaction in channels which might not be for their best good. To prevent such a state of affairs and to let the boys know that the American people are standing back of them wholeheartedly this nation must contribute \$250,000,000 during next week.

CURRENT COMMENT

War Governors.

John Gregory Smith, war governor of Vermont, died on this date in 1891. A war governor in those days was considered a serious and important official, but as a matter of fact the problems connected with the office in those days did not compare with the total of what the war has demanded of Governor Graham during the past two years.—Rutland Herald.

Governor-Elect Coolidge.

The people of Massachusetts have done well by themselves in their choice of governor. They will have no cause to regret it, for the governor-elect will, we venture, grow in strength before the people here and elsewhere as his administration of the office, for which he is so well fitted by training and temperament, reveals the true quality of his leadership. It is often said of Calvin Coolidge that the people trust him; it is not said often enough that Calvin Coolidge trusts the people. He never plays tricks with them or upon them. As he has told us: "We need a broader, firmer, deeper faith in the people, the faith that men desire to do right, that the commonwealth is founded upon a righteousness which will endure, a reconstituted faith that the final approval of the people is not given to demagogues, slavishly pandering to their selfishness, merchandizing with the clamor of the hour, but to statesmen, ministering to their welfare, representing their deep, silent, abiding convictions." His whole public life has found him adhering to his firm belief that "man has a spiritual nature" and that you have but to "touch it and it must respond as the magnet responds to the pole."

Here we have a leader for the times. Massachusetts is fortunate in finding him and wise in putting him at the head of her affairs.—Boston Transcript.

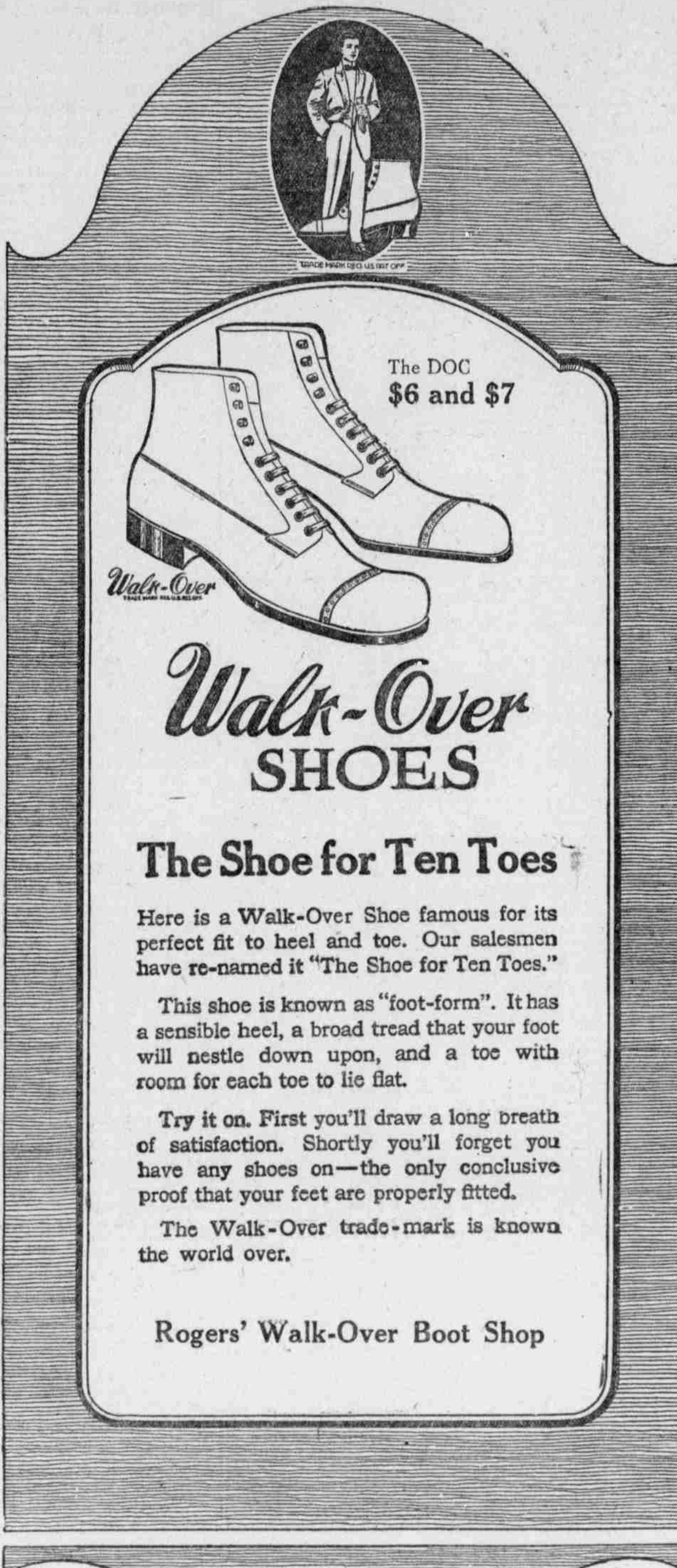
The New Hampshire Election.

There was only one big issue in the campaign that came to its ballots climax yesterday, and it is with satisfaction that The Union records this morning the clean-cut stand taken by New Hampshire on the issue.

The question was not personal to any of the candidates, and, while this was too much to hope for, it ought not to have been partisan. It was: Whether or not this state and its congressional districts should elect their own representatives to the Senate and House, or should send men bearing a mandate to do the will of one man in the making of the nation's laws.

This issue, created by the president, was accepted by the Republicans, and their campaign was fought upon it. And the party voted with almost surprising solidarity for representative as against personal government. It was inevitable that the appeal for support of the president through the period of the war should have some effect, and, of course, the vote was relatively small, on account of the absent men in the service, and those who have moved away. But, taken by and large, the vote was eminently satisfactory, as an expression of Republican sentiment in favor of maintaining our method of lawmaking by representation.

At the time when this is written, the result as between George H. Moses and John B. Jameson is in doubt. Here the issue was obscured. At this point the Democrats made their campaign, turning all their guns upon Moses. There could be only one result of this maneuver. Putting the man whom they have "saved up" for some such occasion against the Republican convention candidate, the Democrats could not help cutting deeply into



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the Moses vote. They did so, and they may have won, according to the returns available at 10:30 o'clock. But this does not materially affect the main fact of the campaign and the election—the four-square stand of the Republicans of New Hampshire against the personal dictation of the president in matters electoral and legislative.

There is ground for solid satisfaction now, and good hope for the future, that in this war year in the face of an appeal for support of the president for the period of the war, at a time when all the usual arguments of prosperity could be used with effect by the administration, and with an admittedly weak point in the line, the Republicans of New Hampshire were able to elect their governor, two congressmen, and one and perhaps two United States senators, voting on the mainly issue of representative government.—Manchester Union.

When Doctors Disagree.

It may not be unreasonable to hope that in compensation for the misery and loss of lives caused by the epidemic there will be a substantial advance in knowledge of the disease and in methods of prevention and cure. Even the methods that have failed will deserve careful study for what they show in a negative way. Most of the material is still fragmentary, but from the reports of newspapers in different parts of the country, it would appear that widely different systems have been used, none of which has proved wholly satisfactory. The severity of the epidemic has, in fact, deferred so considerably in different places

as to make it rather difficult to determine how much credit should be given to the local handling of the situation in places which have got off lightly. And, on the other hand, it might be possible to assemble figures seemingly to show that it made no great difference what was done, or whether anything was done at all—that the pest had to "burn itself out" like the more terrible plagues recorded in history. But modern science, even though for the time being baffled, refuses to be helplessly passive. It knows a great deal about the disease, and is able to suggest promising ways of dealing with it, even if cautious medical men are slow to believe either in absolute prevention or in infallible cure.

In the light of experience we may now question whether it was not a mistake to let the country take the danger so lightly. It may be that the medical experts themselves underrated its gravity, though doctors who worked through the bad times of 1888-90 got a dread of the disease which they never forgot, and were free to say that they feared it much more than some maladies that have a worse name. These veterans can hardly have been among the medical authorities who last summer were assuring us that this country had nothing to fear, because there was here no such loss of vitality from overstrain and poor diet as had made Europe susceptible. On the other hand, the experience of the great epidemic of a generation ago may have been somewhat misleading, because it did not prepare medical or general opinion for the concurrence on so formidable a scale of epidemic pneumonia in a very dangerous form.

That the disease could have been kept out of the country is extremely improbable, and judgment upon the decision not to quarantine against it may be suspended. For a limited time its advent might perhaps have been delayed, but of all the plagues of humanity this seems the swiftest and most insidious. From a single case it can spread with great rapidity and from the very fact that it affects in a less severe form a great part of the community, effective quarantine is far more difficult than in the case of a disease that prostrates all who suffer from it. No doubt multitudes go about with the influenza virus which they have only a bad cold. The protean character of the malady is not the least of the difficulties with which health authorities have had to contend.

But this leads us back to the reflection that it was perhaps a mistake not to prepare the nation in advance for a great epidemic, educating people as to the seriousness of the disease and the means of reducing exposure to it, and organizing the defenses of communities. As a rule, whatever has been done seems to have been done a stage too late. Places of assembly have been closed only after the disease had been so widely spread that street or tenement might be more dangerous than church or theatre. Nor has any system been observed. Fresh air has been stressed in some places, the heating of interiors in others, with the result that the susceptible might be exposed first to overheating and then to chill, with risk of a swift attack of pneumonia.

Even without assured knowledge of how to deal with the epidemic, it should have been possible by planning in season to work out the most hopeful methods with some consistency and thoroughness, so as to get whatever benefit they possessed. Irrational change from one system to another merely smudges the experiment. For the hesitation and uncertainty shown, concentration upon war problems may have been to some extent responsible, yet the absurd enough suggestion that the world-wide epidemic was brought to our shores by a U-boat is a sufficient reminder that a prompt and energetic defense of the public health is itself a war problem. Let us hope that the answer to this one may be found by scientific research when the war is over.—Springfield Republican.

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